

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re U.S. Patent Application of)
)
Mark Robert WATKINS *et al.*)
)
Application Number: To be Assigned)
)
Filed Concurrently Herewith)
)
For: UTILIZATION OF UNUSED DISK SPACE ON)
NETWORKED COMPUTERS)

Honorable Assistant Commissioner
for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Sir:

Prior to an examination on the merits, please amend the above-captioned application as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please replace the below claims as follows:

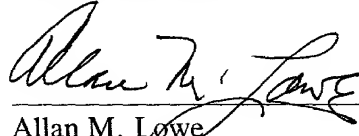
1. (Amended.) A network of computers comprising:
a plurality of individual computer devices each having a non-volatile data storage device and each having means for communicating with at least one other one of said plurality of computers;
each said non-volatile data storage device being divided into a first data storage area reserved for use by the corresponding computer device, and a second data storage area reserved for backup storage of data contained in at least one said first data storage area of at least one other said non-volatile data storage device;
wherein each said individual computer device has a specific set of memory locations reserved on a said second data storage area of another of said non-volatile data storage devices in the network.

REMARKS

Applicants has amended claim 1 and the Abstract to remove reference numerals in them. For the convenience of the Examiner, Applicants are attaching a page of the claims and the Abstract showing the changes made. No new matter has been added to the application as a result of this amendment.

Prompt and favorable action on the merits of this application is earnestly solicited. Kindly direct any inquiries to the undersigned at the below-listed address and telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,



Allan M. Lowe
Registration Number 19,641

LOWE HAUPTMAN GILMAN & BERNER, LLP
1700 Diagonal Road
Suite 310
Alexandria, Virginia 22314
(703) 684-1111

June 7, 2001

[illegible]

5

MARKED-UP VERSION SHOWING CHANGES
-25-**Claims:**

1. A network of computers comprising:

5 a plurality of individual computer devices each having a non-volatile data storage device and each having means ⁽³⁰⁵⁾ for communicating with at least one other one of said plurality of computers;

10 each said non-volatile data storage device being divided into a first data storage area reserved for use by the corresponding computer device, and a second data storage area reserved for backup storage of data contained in at least one said first data storage area of at least one other said non-volatile data storage device;

15 wherein each said individual computer device has a specific set of memory locations reserved on a said second data storage area of another of said non-volatile data storage devices in the network.

2. The network of computers as claimed in claim 1, comprising:

20 a sizer configured for selecting a size of a first and a second data storage area of each of said plurality of non-volatile data storage devices.

25 3. The network of computers as claimed in claim 1, further comprising a finder for finding a plurality of non volatile data storage devices.

4. The network of computers as claimed in claim 1, further comprising;

a selector for selecting individual ones of said plurality of non volatile data storage devices.

30

5. The network of computers as claimed in claim 1, comprising:

UTILIZATION OF UNUSED DISK SPACE ON NETWORKED COMPUTERS

15